

7th Army Training Command welcomes new commanding general. For more, see Page 8-9.



# POLISH FORCES TRAIN FOR BATTLE

Helping pave the way for transformation, the 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy opened its doors to the Polish Army, offering professional development training, as well as support and assistance.

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### SOLDIERS ACQUIRE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT GRAF

>> Firing various weapon systems at 'Graf' not only helped the Soldiers become familiar with the weapons, it also gave them the confidence they could use the weapons in a critical situation if needed.

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Sing. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, takes command of the 7th Army Training Command during the Change of Command Ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field Sept. 10.

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>>Twelve Soldiers of the 99th Movement Control Team [MCT] found themselves in full battle-rattle rolling down the dusty tank trails of Grafenwoehr, Germany.



7th Army Training Command - Expeditionary Training Center-

### TRAINING

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### HERTLING

Hertling's Points of Main Effort for 7th Army Training Command & Expeditionary Training Center

\*Provide the "right" training, mercises and training support for soldiers and leaders as they are preparing for the Global War on Terrorism; incorporate into our training models those things that our organizations will see on today's hattlefield and in tomorrow's light.

\*Expand ETC's capability to train soldiers and leaders in an Army. Joint, Costtion and Alied environment for current and future bettle-

\*Transform 7ATE/ETC based on proposed resources, future demands and the right basing requirements.

\*Exception on environment that contributes to team building personal and professional growth of all soldiens, civilians and family members. find ways that contribute to improved quality of life for all assigned; be great. neighbors, and true friends, to our Gorman hosts

\*Provide a safe and secure environment for our soldiers, family members and civilian workers.

# Commanders Column

# HERTLING TAKES COMMAND

SIR. WHAT MOTIVATES AND INSPIRES YOU?

I'm mostly motivated and inspired by my family -- Sue and our two boys are three of the most inspirational and motivating people I have ever met. And all three of them have more energy than I can ever muster, so I often feel outnumbered when I'm in the middle of them. And besides being motivating and inspirational, they're a lot of fun to be with.

I'm motivated by soldiers who understand how important they are to the future of our country, and who hold the ideals and values of our nation. I have seen so much selflessness in our soldiers -- in combat, in training, and in peacetime -- that I sometimes wonder where we get so many

No matter what Tom Brokaw says, I believe that today's soldiers -- and their families -- are really the greatest generation.

I'm inspired by families who support each other, and who help others through tough - and good -- times. During this period where so many of our soldiers are fighting for freedom and for the future. I have been amazed at the strength of our families. They

are the real heroes in this global war on terror. I'm inspired by our civilians workers because they are really soldiers, too. They support us as part of our team, and they really are an amazing group of individuals.

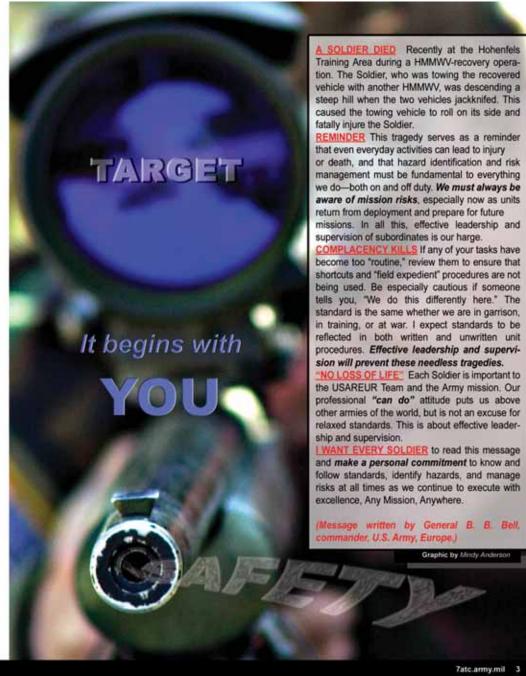
But everyday, I'm motivated by those soldiers who I saw pay the ultimate sacrifice in combat. I have their pictures and names on my desk, and their stories in my head, and I think about them an awful lot and I measure myself by what I think they need me to do for our other soldiers, and for our future.

So, every once in a while, I'm motivated by a good cup of coffee, and inspired by a good glass of weissen beer. You need that kind of inspiration and motivation, too!

Thank you all, train to win!

Mark P. Hertling Brigadier General, U.S. Army Commanding





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Firing the various weapon systems at 'Graf not only helped the Soldiers become familiar with the weapons, it also gave them the confidence they could use the weapons in a critical

Pfc. Sandra Lopez, Co. D, 17th Sig. Bn., fires an AT-4 during a training exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area recently.

ig & Photography by Larry Ri

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Providing high tech communications systems on the battlefield is the primary mission of Soldiers in the 17th Signal Battalion, stationed on Larson Barracks in Kitzingen; however, the signalers tuned-in on another battlefield mission during a recent field training exercise in Grafenwoehr.

The units' goal during the twoweek training session was to give Soldiers hands-on experience with a variety of weapons and a chance to help the new Soldiers get acquainted with their mission.

"During our deployment to Irag last year, we not only provided state of the art communication Mine System and the 50-calibersystems, we also had to provide weapons fire," said Capt. Byron J. Brown, commander, Company B, 17th Sig. Bn.

"When the unit held after action reviews of our Iraq deployment, we found a need to familiarize our Soldiers with the various weapon systems they could be required to use downrange," Brown said.

Such weapons systems included the AT-4 anti-tank rocket caliber machine gun was a familhigh explosive, the M-249 squad automatic rifle, the M-203 grenade launcher, the Claymore their first time firing such

machine gun.

\*Being a communications support unit, we don't have such weapons as part of our inventory, nor do we usually employ them as we are usually located far behind the front lines," Brown said. "However, in Iraq, there are no front lines, per say, and any unit can find itself in a confrontation and has to be prepared."

For some Soldiers, firing a 50iarization of what they had done before, however, for others it was

weapons as the M-249 squad automatic rifle and the AT-4 antitank rocket high explosive was an experience.

"I never thought I would be able to fire some of these weapon systems because I'm in a signal unit," said Pfc. Sandra Lopez, Co. D, 17th Sig. Bn. "I fired all the systems, including the AT-4, which was the most awesome system I fired."

Firing the various weapon systems at 'Graf' not only helped the Soldiers become familiar with the weapons, it also gave them the confidence they could use the weapons in a critical situation if

they needed.

"When we were in Iraq and were issued weapons like the M-249 squad automatic rifle, a lot of us had not fired the weapon before and were a bit nervous about doing so," said Spec. Mark Mitchell, Co. B. 17th Sig. Bn. "After the training we got in 'Graf, there's a lot of confidence in our ability to fire most any weapon they might hand us in the future."

A trip to the Grafenwoeher Training Area not only offered the soldiers an opportunity to gain confidence in firing various weapons, it also provided them an environment to improve teamwork.

"Since returning from Iraq last summer, we have had an 80 percent turn over in personnel, especially in the lower ranks," said Capt. Fredrick Ragins, commander, Co. D. 17th Sig. Bn. "We have also upgraded our communications systems and the training at 'Graf' provided us an opportunity to get the new personnel trained-up on the unit's new systems and as communication teams."

The signal Soldiers were able to get cohesive training in their military occupational specialty (MOS) and they also honed-in on their teamwork.

"We went through an obstacle course and a field leaders reaction course and both courses really tested us in different ways," said Spec. Clint Fagan, Co. D. 17th Sig. Bn. "The obstacle course brought out our inner strength as Soldiers and the leaders course provided situations which we really had to work as a team to complete."

Training can help lift a unit to a higher standard and help bring a new soldier on board.

"The training I received at 'Graf' helped me become more familiar with the unit's mission and my part in the mission," said Pfc. John Pfister, Co. D, 17th Sig. Bn. "It also gave me the confidence as a Soldier when it comes to firing weapons we don't normally get to fire, but might have to in the future."

(Reilly is a public affairs specialist with the 417th Base Support Battalion public affairs office, Kitzingen, Germany.)



(Above) Spec. Marie Kanzulak, HHC, 17th Sig. Bn., from Larson Barracks in Kitzingen, loads a M-203 grenade launcher during recent training exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area. She has qualified expert three straight times on the M-203 after she scored 80 of a possible 90 points with the weapon. (Right) Two Soldiers from Co. D, 17th Sig. Bn., load a M-2 .50 caliber machine gun. This exercise provided 17th Sig. Bn., which normally provide high tech communications systems on the battlefield, the opportunity to receive invaluable weapons training to help them become more acquainted with their mission.



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# Change Of Command

Photography by Paula Guzman

(Left) Brig. Gen. Robert M. Williams, outgoing commander, 7th Army Training Command, renders a final salute to the troops during the

Change of Command Ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field Sept. 10. (Below) Williams and Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, incoming commander, walk the line for troop inspection.



(Above) Eleven cannon blasts render honors to Brig. Gen. Robert M. Williams, outgoing commander, and Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, incoming commander, and Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, incoming commander, during the 7th Army Training Command Change of Command Ceremony at Grafenwoehr Parade Field Sept. 10. (Left) Hertling accepts the 7th Army Training Command colors from Gen. B. B. Bell, commander U.S. Army Europe



(Above) 7th Army Training Command soldiers 'dressright-dress' for troop inspection. (Right) Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, incoming commander, 7th Army Training Command, renders a salute honoring the nations colors during the Change of Command Ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field Sept. 10.

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U.S. Army, Europe, Grafenwoehr Training Area and the Combat Manuever Training Center at Hohenfels. Germany, are adapting to the changing conditions of the battlefield. A \$544,000 Cave Training Complex consisting of four cave sites was completed Sept. 15 to provide realistic training to better prepare Soldiers for upcoming deployments to areas like Afghanistan.

Subterranean complex (or cave) operations are part of the contemporary operational environment at CMTC. These operations provide covered and concealed routes of movement throughout urban or mountainous terrain and replicate terrain condition challenges where our forces will fight.

It is said that Soldiers "Train to Fight," but the Myrmidons of 2nd (Airborne) 503rd Infantry's "Chosen" Company took it a step further - they planned to "Train to Fight." It was obvious to the onlooker that the Mighty Warriors had prepared and planned thoroughly for the Cave Complex Search and Attack Training at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 5, because they kicked butt and took names throughout the exercise.

"Cave complex training is a recent training initiative upon guidance from Gen. [B.B.] Bell, knowing exactly where the danger complete our objective," he said.

[commanding general, U.S. Army, Europe,] to better reenact cave operations for Soldiers who are deploying to places like Afghanistan," said Capt, Scott Rawlinson, public affairs officer, CMTC. "173rd is the first to train in caves at CMTC and we have seen that the realistic training has provided Soldiers with the type of experience they can get no other place," he said.

Rawlinson said that CMTC strives to make training as realistic as possible so that Soldiers aren't seeing situations for the first time when they deploy.

The training highlighted just how ready the Soldiers of Company C are, and confidence among the troops was riding high.

"We were ready to go in - we had people on top of the cave, on each side of the cave - we were everywhere," said Pvt. Chad Mohr, infantryman, Co. C. 2nd Battalion. (Abn.), 503rd Inf. "I feel so much more confident about our deployment now. We completed our mission and received no casualties." he said enthusiastically.

Mohr said that although he knew what to expect based on the pretraining he and his comrades received, there were still a few

"The training helped me most in

lies," Mohr said. "I was not used to the angles that the people came from, so I learned a lot about what to and what not to look for. They make the training as realistic as they possibly can here, and I'm not sure of the terrain in Afghanistan since I've never been there, but the terrain here was very rugged and steep, so that added to making things more real," he said.

Referring to themselves as "the squad who takes care of everything," the 503rd apparently did do the right thing during the training exercise because, according to one Warhog observer/controller, they were on the ball.

"These guys were so on top of things," the o/c said. "No 'terrorists' have been able to get anywhere near this compound, because the security is so tight. In addition, these guys were so ready - so thorough, that they were ready to search and attack the cave well before expected," he said.

Not only does the squad take care of everything, but they take care of each other as well.

"I was confident going into the cave because I knew the guy next to me was going to do the right thing," said Spec. Carlos Gonzales, Co. C, 2nd Battalion (Abn.), 503rd Inf. "We help each other all the way through. We do what we are trained to do - kill the bad guys and come out safe," he said.

Training at a world-class facility like CMTC makes all the difference in soldier readiness.

"The training areas here in Hohenfels and the surrounding German country side are a great tool, but the world-class scenario put together by CMTC is the absolute best part of our rotation," said Capt. Dirk Ringgenburg, commander, Co. C. 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 503rd Inf. "Chosen' Company will continue to grow and learn with each training event we accomplish. Our primary task is preparing for the upcoming mission to Afghanistan and we are right on track to



noncommissioned officers to the NCO Academy at Grafenwoehr.

"As we began to work more closely with the Polish Army, in training and later on the battlefield, Bell (For more, see Page 12)

10 TRAINING JOURNAL FALL 2004 7atc.army.mil 11 thought it was important to establish a dialogue between the leadership of the two armies," said Ulysses Harris, former training coordinator, International Military Training Office, 7th Army Training Command.

When the first Polish troops arrived June 4, 2003, to take their place alongside American soldiers entering the Primary Leadership Development Course, it marked the first time such training had been offered to international students.

To qualify for the academy, Polish troops had to meet the following standards: take an English language proficiency test and score 60 percent or higher; be physically fit, according to the standards of the Polish Army; and be fully qualified and proficient in their military occupational specialties.

"To help smooth their transition, we implemented 'zero week' for the Polish soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Gavre, 7th ATC NCO Academy. "It's a program designed to integrate the international soldier into our PLDC, basically a familiarization of what we expect of them in the course and what they should expect from our course."

"In the beginning, we found things difficult, mainly a matter of language," said Sgt. Andrzej Mareczko, Chocianow, Poland. "And there are so many abbreviations and acronyms. But as things progressed [over the last year], we became more comfortable with English and it got better."

Zero Week gets the Polish soldiers ready for "the best NCO course in the world," said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Ellenburg, 7th ATC. "We want to expose their NCOs to our training with hopes that it will help them develop a similar academy in their army."

The ground-breaking program is the result of months of preparation, Ellenburg said, and is continually evolving.

"We first brought 12 Polish soldiers here in June [2003], then later brought them back as assistant instructors, said Ellenburg. "This process turned out to

be tremendously successful, not only for the new students coming to the course but also for the returning instructors, because they got a chance to see, first-hand, what an instructor does at an NCO academy."

"None of this could have happened if it weren't for the Office of Defense Cooperation, often working behind the scenes, laying groundwork and aggressively pursuing the program." Harris said.

"At ODC initiative, we programmed an NCO development survey team to come into country. This was our third attempt to re-engage Polish NCO development, spanning back to 1998. Based upon the results of the survey, we then determined that PLDC met their needs," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Slivensky, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC). "We paired this up with the offer from General Bell, presented it to the Poles, and began to implement it."

ODC Poland is charged by the Secretary of Defense to help transform the Polish military which means both personnel and equipment, according to Lt. Col. Chris Charveron, bilateral affairs officer, ODC Poland.

"I represented our office by participating in the NCO Development survey and the subsequent discussions that resulted in this program," Charveron said. "We talk to (Polish Army) SGM Ostapski on a weekly basis and have participated in, or followed most every portion of the program."

"We're proud of the Polish soldiers' performance and are equally proud of our involvement in the program, Charveron said.

MSgt. Todd W. Lutz, operations noncommissioned officer, 7th U.S. Army NCO Academy, said when attending PLDC the international students are responsible for meeting the same requirements as U.S. students, except for the physical training test. Since different aspects of physical fitness are emphasized by the different armies, the Polish students must pass their army's own fitness test.

Lutz said other than the P.T. test, nothing else is changed. "They're here to learn and earn the right to go on to the next grade, just like U.S. Army soldiers," he said.

"The training here, there are lots of similarities with the Polish Army," said Sgt. Cezary Wyszynski, Morag, Poland. "Military training is much the same for all armies. One thing I found different was the way we took exams. There was less memorization -- which we are used to -- and more use of books."

Aside from differences in coursework, Polish troops found differences in attitude.

"I think one of the most important things we learned I Giebelstadt, Germany.)

here is about motivation," said Warrant Officer Sebastian Redych, Wroclaw, Poland. "Here, the soldier is built up, and motivation is a critical part of the training."

"No one is put down. Teamwork is very important. It is somewhat different in the Polish Army." said Warrant Officer Marcin Kuzdub, chemical specialist, Krakow, Poland. "We can learn much about motivation from the U.S. Army."

Despite the intensity of PLDC, some of the Polish soldiers thought the course could have been longer.

"The equipment, of course, was often quite different," Kuzdub said. "We could have used more time to familiarize ourselves with the weapons, for instance, and with the terms for the parts and actions with weapons. But in other areas, there are many similarities. We use some of the same chemical equipment, so that was easy for me," he said.

"We want them to go through the course and graduate ... not just get a piece of paper saying that they were physically here," said Lutz. "We want them to be well-trained so that they can go back and institute the same kind of NCO education system." "The Polish Army is in a state of change now," said Warrant Officer 3 Leszek Kowalski, Drewnowskiego, assistant instructor, PLDC, who attended the course two months earlier. "We are reorganizing, getting new equipment, developing new strategies.

"We hope to continue training with the U.S. Army, to continue to learn and share knowledge, because exchanges like this are important to our understanding the other's point of view [regarding our different] approach to training and mission," Kowalski said.

Quirk said the goal is to build a new backbone for the Polish Army - a professional NCO corps, which is truly the backbone of any professional army.

"It was good to bring together soldiers from many specialties to train together," Kuzdub said. "In my unit, I am in communications, when we go to the field, it is only with other communications soldiers. I hope we can create some exercises in Poland to allow us to continue to practice what we have learned here."

Redych said that because of the different approaches of our armies, they cannot take everything we learned and apply it when we return to Poland, but they can take some of the knowledge, procedures and ideas back and put them to use as we move forward.

This ground-breaking pilot program providing Polish troops with professional U.S. Army NCO training is only the beginning.

(Assistance provided by Pfc. Michael Taylor, a journalist with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Giebelstadt, Germany.)



Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

Grafenwoehr during an exercise recently while attending 7th Army

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# Members of the 99th Movement Control Team take up positions to guard the convoy during a live fire exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

### Twelve Soldiers of the 99th Movement Control Team

found themselves in full battle-rattle rolling down the dusty tank trails of Grafenwoehr, Germany, early summer. Over the next 18 hours, these soldiers would be scanning sectors, caring for wounded comrades,

and reacting to improvised explosive devices during day and night time exercises – a far cry from their normal duties of coordinating the movement of troops and cargo for the Army. This training in convoy movements will come in handy should the unit be deployed.

"Nothing, except the helicopter and injuries, will be simulated today," said Capt. Kelvin Brown, observer/controller (O/C), Grizzly Team, Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC), to the troops. "You will fire live rounds, you will use first aid kits, and you will carry your wounded to safety.

"You will learn the importance of developing a format to send and receive information, and request support if under attack," he explained. "It's all about tactics, techniques, and procedures – ensuring that everyone is on the same sheet."

"This first ride is a dry-run," Brown continued. "What happens here will happen during the live fire event. This is where you make your mistakes. Today, you are going to walk, talk, demonstrate and execute!"

THE TRANSPORTERS WERE READY. They spent the day before working on risk assessments, mapping overlays, distributing operations orders and working out communications.

The Aviano-based soldiers huddled around their commander, Capt. Curtis Johnson, as he briefed them on what to expect, what route they'd take, command and control signals, and other details they'd need for the exercise.

While they moved into position, enemy targets popped up in berms several hundred meters away. Not too far from the enemy position, friendly targets also emerged. The lesson for the soldiers was to distinguish bad from good.

Once the positioning was worked out and committed to memory, the transporters continued on their way. As they rounded another comer, the radio buzzed with the words, 'IED [improvised explosive device] on the road.' This was immediately followed by 'enemy at two-o'clock.'

Several more times, IED's exploded alongside a vehicle and enemy combatants would appear on different sides of the road. To make it interesting, friendly forces would often appear in the same vicinity.





SSgt. Jeffery Nelson (left) and Sgt. Tatsi McKissick, carry Pvt. Susana Valenzuela to the landing zone. Valenzuela played the role of a casualty during the live fire exercise the Soldiers of the 99th MCT participated in at Grafenwoehr, Germany.

About five minutes later, the convoy came down a hill and was hit by another IED. Someone called over the radio – Pvt. Susana Valenzuela was hit and received multiple gunshot wounds. A second call came over – the M-249 gunner, Owens, had been hit, too.

"Medic! I need a medic over here!" someone yelled. 
"Where's the stretcher?" was heard from another area. "I need a combat lifesaver here!" came from another HMMWV.

Because of the severity of Valenzuela's wounds and unconscious condition, Sgt. Tatsi McKissick, combat lifesaver, deemed her to be the priority. Over and over, he asked her to wake up, talk to him, open her eyes. He, along with Staff Sgt. Jeffery Nelson, bound her wounds and prepared her for transport.

"Chaos will happen," Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Dove, first sergeant, 99th MCT, said to the Soldiers who clustered around him and Brown. "But people need to take command. We need to think about our security. All our attention focused on the wounded. That's what the enemy wants, they want us to fall apart.

As the group went through the live fire, it was obvious that everyone was READY TO LOCK AND LOAD. Communication became shorter, crisper; IEDs and mines were detected and pointed out; when the Soldiers dismounted, they immediately knew what areas needed to be covered and how to do it.

Then they came upon the final event – the dreaded casualty evacuation – new victims were chosen and the Soldiers were kept in the dark as to the identities.

When the first scream came from HMMWV four where a civilian was the casualty, one from the company commander in HMMWV two quickly followed it. This time the stretcher was at the ready, as were the combat lifesavers and medics. While it wasn't a perfect reaction, it was far and away more organized than the first try, Brown said.

"That's what I want to see," Brown said after the event was over. "Everyone went to their appropriate place, whether it was medic, pulling security or clearing the landing zone, this was much better. Now, we'll just have to see how you do in the dark!" "This type of exercise is good preparation — just in case," Mosley-Frazier said. "Mistakes will be made and things will go wrong," she said. "We just have to be prepared for the unimaginable."

Dove agreed and told the soldiers about his time in the first Gulf War. "I was in a commo unit and we were responsible for running the communications wire and setting up the antennas. I had to learn how to plot grid coordinates fast and accurate. And yes, we were always on the look out for enemy troops. REMEMBER, 'WE'RE SOLDIERS FIRST."

"As a former enlisted 11Bravo [infantryman], I'm used to carrying and firing an assortment of weapons," the MCT commander said. "This is training that is needed in combat service support units. I think all my Soldiers learned and benefited from this exercise."

(Bahr is the editor for the OUTLOOK weekly community newspaper serving the Southeast Asia Task Force and 22nd Army Support Group military community, Vicenza, Italy.)

# ng day, nightime training exercise





(Above) Air Force jets during a heavy bombardment of enemy targets at Grafenwoehr Training Area during the 1970s. Tactical air support plays a vital role in the combined arms team work on the battlefield. (Right) General William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, inspects troops of the 3rd Armored Division during a visit to the Grafenwoehr Training Area in the summer of 1971.



